



**REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION**
OF ST. LOUIS

314.863.5811
info@racstl.org
RACSTL.ORG

**Regional Arts Commission
Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
May 28, 2026
1:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Welcome, Call to Order & Roll Call

Gennaria welcomed everyone to the Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee @ 1:02p and asked Sutherlin for roll call.

Commissioners Present

Co-chair Jerry **Gennaria**, yea; Mont **Levy**, yea; Constantino **Ochoa**, yea

Commissioners Absent

Gerad Ewing
Sam Fiorello, Co-chair
Beverly Isom

Staff Attendees

Vanessa Cooksey, Savannah Babington, Ann Haubrich, Lea Sutherlin

Others in Attendance

Rick Gratza, KEB
Atty. Travis Kearbey, Quarles
Atty. Katie Hausfeld, BCLP
Atty. Molly Cooke, BCLP
Meredith Parfet, Ravenyard Group

Recognition of Public Guests

None in attendance.

Approval of May 21, 2026 Minutes

Committee Co-chair Gennaria called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2026, Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

Motion made by Levy seconded by Ochoa and unanimously carried to approve the May 21, 2026, Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes. Votes were as follows:

Yea – Gennaria, Levy, Ochoa

Nay – none

Abstain – none

Discussion – Frequency of Meetings





Cooksey proposed moving this committee's meetings from weekly to bi-weekly and cited two main reasons: (1) the administrative workload and (2) reduced recent media activity related to the state audit. Cooksey suggested this change through August, with the possibility of resuming weekly meetings if needed.

Gennaria expressed understanding and asked about potential impacts on legal and PR counsel, with the legal counsel agreeing that urgent legal issues could be addressed via email or emergency meetings if necessary, and PR counsel noting that their team is working on messaging and supports bi-weekly meetings during their background work.

Cooksey noted that she and Sutherlin will review the calendar to align meetings with board schedules for June through August and organize the calendar accordingly.

Update on Government & Legal Affairs – Closed Session [Privileged & Confidential - Legal Matter RSMO 610.021(1)]

Committee Co-Chair Gennaria called for a motion for closed session for Update on Government & Legal Affairs [Privileged & Confidential - Legal Matter pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1)].

Motion made by Levy, seconded by Ochoa and unanimously carried to close the May 28, 2026 Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Update on Government & Legal Affairs [Privileged & Confidential - Legal Matter pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1)]. RAC's legal representation was present. Votes were as follows:

Yea – Gennaria, Levy, Ochoa

Nay – none

Abstain - none

CLOSED SESSION HELD/Privileged and Confidential

Gennaria called for a motion to adjourn closed session pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1), and to reconvene open session of the May 28, 2026 of the Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

Motion made by Levy, seconded by Ochoa and unanimously approved to adjourn closed session pursuant to RSMO 610.021(1), and to reconvene open session of the May 28, 2026 Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee. Votes were as follows:

Yea – Gennaria, Levy, Ochoa

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Roll Call & Adjournment

Gennaria called for a motion to adjourn the May 28, 2026 Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.



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**Motion made by Levy, seconded by Ochoa, and unanimously approved to adjourn the May 28, 2026
Government Relations & Public Policy Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 2:02 p.m. Votes were as follows:**

Yea – Gennaria, Levy, Ochoa

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

